

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SOFIA 00345 280648Z

ACTION AGRE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 L-03 TRSE-00
OMB-01 AID-05 STR-07 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /047 W
-----059301 280651Z/11

P R 241430Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4181

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SOFIA 0345

ATHENS FOR AGATT

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAGR, BU

SUBJECT: PROPOSED JOINT STATEMENT ON AGRICULTURE

REF: A) STATE 041442; B) SOFIA 0232

1. WE APPRECIATE POINTS MADE REF A, WHICH HAVE GENERATED ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS WITHIN EMBASSY AND WITH AGATT REGARDING BEST APPROACH TO NEGOTIATING JOINT STATEMENT SO THAT OUR OBJECTIVES CAN BE MET.

2. EMBASSY FULLY AGREES THAT PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE OF JOINT STATEMENT IS TO IMPROVE ACCESS AND CONTACTS WITH MINAG, AND THAT THESE NEGOTIATIONS WILL PROVIDE US WITH A RARE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESS GOB FOR REGULARIZATION OF DATA EXCHANGES. EMBASSY BELIEVES IT HIGHLY IMPORTANT TO EXPLORE GOB ATTITUDES ON THIS ISSUE UNDER CONDITIONS WHEN INCENTIVES TO GOB TO BE FORTHCOMING ON DATA WILL BE HIGHEST. BASED ON EMBASSY'S EXPERIENCE IN NEGOTIATING SUCH MATTERS WITH BULGARIANS, WE EXPECT THAT MINAG WILL BE RELUCTANT TO AGREE TO EXCHANGE OF SPECIFIC DATA, EVEN WHEN IT AGREES TO GENERAL EXCHANGE IN PRINCIPLE. BEST TIME TO MAKE OUR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SOFIA 00345 280648Z

PROPOSAL WOULD THEREFORE BE DURING INITIAL NEGOTIATIONS ON JOINT STATEMENT, WHEN CHANCES FOR REASONABLE COMPROMISE ARE GREATEST.

3. WE FEEL THAT POSTPONING REQUESTS FOR SPECIFIC DATA EXCHANGES UNTIL FIRST WORKING GROUP MEETING WILL SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE THE LIKELIHOOD THAT GOB WILL AGREE TO

PROVIDE DATA WE ARE SEEKING. ONCE JOINT STATEMENT IS SIGNED, OUR ONLY LEVERAGE ON THE ISSUE WILL BE THROUGH WITHHOLDING SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES. IT SEEMS UNWISE TO PUT USDA AND MINAG IN POSSIBLE POSITION AT LATER DATE OF CONFRONTATION OVER INFORMATION. WE BELIEVE IT IS A MUCH BETTER NEGOTIATING TACTIC TO SEEK COMMITMENT DURING EARLY ROUNDS OF TALKS SO THAT BOTH SIDES WILL HAVE CLEAR IDEA AS TO WHAT OTHER WILL OFFER.

4. CONSEQUENTLY, WE PROPOSE THAT DURING INITIAL NEGOTIATIONS, EMBASSY BE GIVEN FLEXIBILITY TO EXPLORE BULGARIAN POSITION ON DATA EXCHANGES. IF WE DETERMINE THAT THERE MAY BE CHANCE OF OBTAINING GOB AGREEMENT, WE COULD THEN PRESS FOR JOINT STATEMENT CONTAINING ANNEX INCLUDING DATA LISTED PARA 2 REF A.

5. IF GOB NOT WILLING AGREE TO THAT, WE WOULD THEN FALL BACK TO APPROACH OUTLINED REF A. WE WOULD THEN, AT THE LEAST, HAVE NOTIFIED THE BULGARIANS OF OUR INTENTION TO SEEK MEANINGFUL DATA EXCHANGES UNDER THE DOCUMENT, AND WOULD HAVE LEARNED THEIR REACTION.

6. IF MINAG WERE TO COUNTER WITH REQUEST THAT SPECIFIC SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES BE INCLUDED IN ANNEX, WE COULD RESPOND BY AGREEING TO INCLUDE SPECIFIC AREAS FOR SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION (E.G., ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, PLANT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 SOFIA 00345 280648Z

PROTECTION) WITHOUT COMMITTING USDA TO ANY SPECIFIC PROGRAMS.

7. EMBASSY FINDS LIST OF DATA CONTAINED IFMPARA 2, REF A TO BE CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENT OVER THAT CONTAINED IN REF B. AGATT BELIEVES THAT FOR HIS PURPOSES WE COULD SEEK DATA ON ANNUAL RATHER THAN SEMI-ANNUAL BASIS, BUT AGREES TO DESIRABILITY OF SEEKING MORE RATHER THAN LESS FROM THE BULGARIANS -- PARTICULARLY DURING INITIAL DISCUSSIONS.

8. INITIAL NEGOTIATIONS WOULD THUS REQUIRE MINOR REWORDING OF ARTICLE V (PARA 3, REF A) AS FOLLOWS:

(A) ADD TO END OF FIRST SENTENCE "...AS INDICATED IN ANNEX TO JOINT STATEMENT."
ND (B) IN PENULTIMATE SENTENCE, INSERT WORD "ALSO" BETWEEN "MAY" AND "BE" SO AS TO FORECLOSE POSSIBILITY OF TEXT BEING CONSTRUED TO IMPLY THAT REQUESTS FOR SUCH INFORMATION CAN BE MADE ONLY DURING WORKING GROUP MEETINGS.

9. TEXT OF ANNEX WOULD BE CHANGED TO REFLECT USDA'S

PROPOSAL ON DATA (PARA 2, REF A).

10. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS NEGOTIATING SCENARIO WOULD PROVIDE USG WITH GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO SEEK MEANINGFUL EXCHANGE OF DATA WITH A COUNTRY WHICH HAS PERHAPS THE WORST RECORD OF RELEASING ECONOMIC DATA IN ALL OF EAST-ERN EUROPE (EXCEPT ALBANIA). THERE IS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD THAT NEGOTIATIONS WILL BOG DOWN OVER THE ISSUE IF IT BECOMES TIED TO A COUNTER REQUEST FOR SPECIFICATION OF DETAILED SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES, PARTICULARLY SINCE WE HAVE FALBACK POSITION WHICH WOULD ALLOW US TO DEFER DATA ISSUE UNTIL LATER WORKING GROUP MEETING.

11. EMBASSY AGREES THAT SIGNING IN WASHINGTON WOULD BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 SOFIA 00345 280648Z

APPROPRIATE, AND REITERATES PROPOSAL (SOFIA 0228) THAT BULGARIAN AGRICULTURE MINISTER KRUSTEV BE INVITED TO WASHINGTON FOR SIGNING CEREMONIES.

12. ACTION REQUESTED: STATE AND USDA CONCURRENCE FOR EMBASSY TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOB ON JOINT STATE-MENT, SEEKING TO HAVE SPECIFIC DATA EXCHANGES PROVIDED FOR IN ANNEX TO JOINT STATEMENT, WITH FALBACK TO POSITION AS OUTLINED IN REF A.

GARTHOFF

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGRICULTURE, AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SOFIA00345
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780091-0148
Format: TEL
From: SOFIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780216/aaaaanaa.tel
Line Count: 146
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 84bd38d0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AGRE
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 41442, 78 SOFIA 232
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3484946
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROPOSED JOINT STATEMENT ON AGRICULTURE
TAGS: EAGR, BU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/84bd38d0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014